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**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Leading Edge Library and Resource Center in Bethlehem, Palestine**

After about 15 months of construction, the first-of-its-kind Library and Resource Center in Bethlehem, Palestine is having an official ribbon cutting and dedication. Bright Stars of Bethlehem Board members will join with leaders from Palestine, USAID and the surrounding region to dedicate this historic new library at Dar al-Kalima University in Palestine on Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Dar al-Kalima University President, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, said, “This new Library is a game-changer for us. We are now distinctly positioned to be a resource not only for our University students, but the entire region.”

“This is a milestone in further advancing the educational opportunities for our students at the University. It will also serve as a central gathering place to promote culture, peace and hope,” said Beth Nelson Chase, Executive Director, Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

The new Library and Resource Center in Palestine will have a unique focus on arts and culture, demonstrating American values for culture and education. The library will be used by both the students of Dar al-Kalima University and the larger local community. This new space gives Palestinians access to information and an ability to further contribute to a resilient society.

Chase added, “We are grateful for the partnership we have experienced with USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad. The generous support they have provided as well as that of our Bright Stars of Bethlehem supporters allows us to usher in this new era of relationship and bridge building of our common ideals and practices. It is through education that dreams are given a true and grounded reality for vocation and economic vitality!”

The new Library will contain 25,000 volumes, in addition to the multimedia center’s state-of-the-art technology. This new resource will be foster virtual academic exchange between students in Bethlehem and the rest of the world.

This Library is made possible thanks to the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a U.S. 501(c)(3) charitable organization that promotes and spreads the word about the many outreach ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem to build hope and a brighter future for the people of Palestine through the Diyar Consortium. The ministries include Dar al-Kalima University College, the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth and the Ajyal Seniors Program. These programs equip community members of all ages to assume a proactive role in shaping a brighter future and bringing hope to the Holy Land.

For more information about this groundbreaking ceremony or about Bright Stars of Bethlehem, visit [brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org), or e-mail [admin@brightstarsbethlehem.org](mailto:admin@brightstarsbethlehem.org).

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